

The Last Race



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A **STUDY GUIDE** BY LEE BURTON



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The Last Race is both a compelling drama and a film that explores an issue that affects thousands of Australians every year, both as donors and recipients of organs and tissues. The film's power is that as a drama it draws the audience into the life-and-death moments of its characters, as well as realistically and compellingly depicting the medical, social and moral issues around organ and tissue donation.

The film has been produced as a wake-up call to all of us about the need to increase Australia's organ and tissue donation rates and the resulting deaths of people who could have been saved. It asks us to consider becoming donors and discussing our wishes with our loved ones.

Through viewing this film, students from secondary to tertiary level will have the opportunity to learn about the science of organ and tissue donation. They will learn how considering donation, discussing it with their families and friends, and becoming donors will contribute to the wellbeing of others.

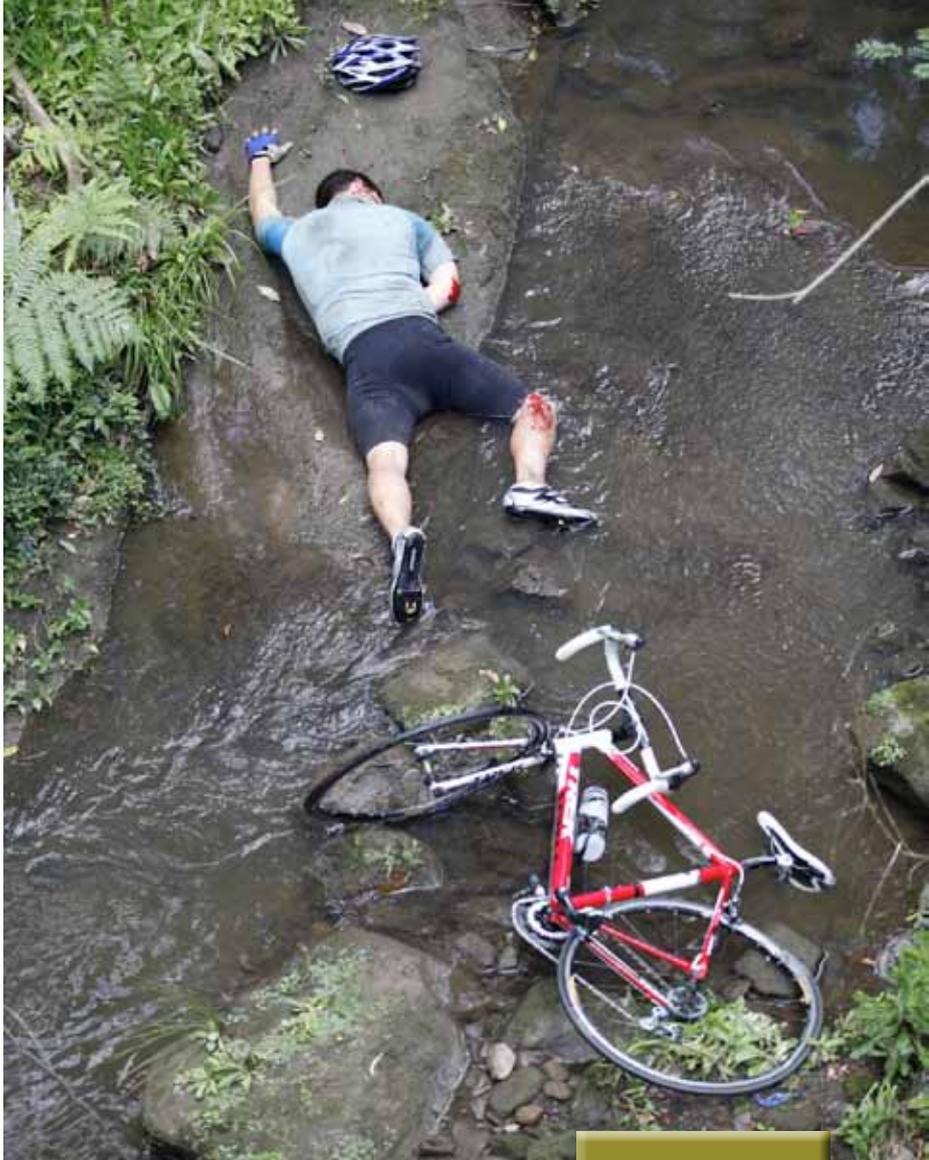
The study guide has been written to incorporate many subject areas, and the topics and themes can be discussed in home groups, pastoral care, religious groups and community groups. Discussing and analysing the film will also develop skills of critical analysis and media literacy.

Schools across Australia are already involved in awareness raising and fundraising through programs run by DonateLife and other organisations. See <<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/the-authority/our-sector-/community-organisations>>.

This project is supported by the Australian Government.

Organ and tissue donation in Australia

Thanks to developments in medical technology, organ transplantation has become one of the most miraculous medical breakthroughs of recent times. Unfortunately, there are not enough organs available to help everyone in need. The DonateLife website <<http://www.donatelife.gov.au>> describes how one organ and tissue donor can save or enhance the lives of ten or more people.



Australia is a world leader for successful transplant outcomes, with many transplants performed each year. In 2011, 1001 Australian lives were saved or improved thanks to 337 organ donors and their families. This is the highest ever number of transplant recipients and organ donors in Australia. But around 1600 people are on Australian organ transplant waiting lists at any one time.

Almost anyone can donate organs and tissues. While your age and medical history will be considered, you shouldn't assume you are too old, too young or not healthy enough. The determining factors are where and how the donor dies and the condition of the organs and tissues. Specialised health professionals assess each person at the time of death to decide which organs and tissues are suitable for donation.

Information and education are the most important factors in lifting Australia's organ and tissue donation rate. Schools can be major centres for raising awareness and calling for action among their students, teachers, parents and community.

To ensure students know basic facts about organ and tissue donation, the Did You Know? information sheet can be distributed at any time and is used in one of the activities. See page 10.

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THE LAST RACE SYNOPSIS

Mike Kershaw and his brother Tony compete in a club bike race. The difference between them is Mike's outstanding fitness and ability to get to the finish in first place. Both brothers are enthusiastically backed by their father, Clive, and Mike's fiancée, Anna. As they break away from the peloton, Mike takes the lead and hurtles downhill. Then he swerves to miss a branch on the road and he lands over a steep incline with a sickening thud.

Sam lives with his fifteen-year-old daughter Charlie, and Charlie lives with cystic fibrosis. After a violent coughing fit, and despite her protests, Sam convinces her it's time to go back into St Vincent's Hospital, where the doctors know Charlie well. They assess her. Time is running out. She needs a new pair of lungs, and they need to find a donor whose lungs match for size and blood group.

Also in the hospital is 45-year-old Alice, who has been on the recipient list for a lung donation for a couple of years. Dr Matsui tries to appear upbeat and does his best to make her feel comfortable, while also hiding his fears for her deteriorating condition. Meanwhile, the transplant coordinator is on the phones trying to locate potential sets of lungs interstate. There's nothing available.

When the ambulance arrives at Accident and Emergency, systems swing into action and Mike's vital condition is assessed. The results reveal he is brain dead, even though he continues to breathe and his skin is pink. Dr Tom Hogan, the intensivist, breaks the news to Mike's family that their son is not responding to any stimuli. There's nothing they can do but monitor him. He is, to all intents and purposes, dead.

Sam urges Dr Matsui to try harder to locate a donor for Charlie. He can't believe so many people die every week and they can't find a pair of lungs. Charlie is fatalistic. She knows she doesn't have much time.

Amanda, the hospital donor coordinator, and Marita, the recipient coordinator, meet at the lift. Marita delicately tries to get information on the potential donor she has heard has come in. Amanda won't help her, and Marita knows she is out of order.



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1: ANNA (GERALDINE HAKEWILL) 2: TONY KERSHAW (DANIEL GARRETT) 3: ANNA AND CLIVE KERSHAW (MARK LEE) CHEERING BROTHERS TONY AND MIKE AT THE BIKE RACE 4: CLIVE

Tony turns to Anna and makes an impassioned plea that Mike's perfectly honed organs not go to waste – it's not what Mike would have wanted.

Mike's family faces the grim reality of when they will authorise his life support to be shut down, though Anna resists. The coordinator suggests that they go somewhere quiet where they can all talk. She raises the issue of organ donation, and tries to find out what the family wants. They are emotional and divided. Mike hadn't ever discussed the issue with his family.

The family can't decide.

It's late. Sam talks quietly with Charlie about what happens when we die. Dr Matsui watches Alice from a distance. If there is only one set of lungs becoming available, Dr Matsui knows he is going to have to make a decision as to who gets them. Charlie asks her dad to do her nails. Suddenly all the nurses are offering bottles of nail polish.

In the deserted canteen, Leanne (Mike's mother) overcomes the hateful thought of her son's body being cut open, and decides that something good has to come out of what has happened. The family remains divided.

Dr Matsui chooses the moment to have a talk with Alice. There's no good news, and her condition isn't strong enough for a transplant. She accepts the news with great courage, and asks not to be resuscitated when her condition worsens.

A new day and the Kershaw family return to the reality of the hospital. Charlie has lapsed into unconsciousness.

Wracked with guilt, Tony confesses to his father that the accident was his fault. No, says Clive, the fault was his for encouraging them to ride. Tony turns to Anna and makes an impassioned plea that Mike's perfectly honed organs not go to waste – it's not what Mike would have wanted. Anna finally concedes.

Charlie's alarms are going off. Dr Matsui rushes to put her on life support. Clive and Leanne talk to the coordinators. The retrieval team surrounds Mike's bed and his family watch while he goes into surgery. Sam gets the news, and the Kershaw family's tears flow freely.



ABOVE: ANNA, MIKE KERSHAW (JOHNNY EMERY) AND CLIVE

THE FILM AND WHY IT WAS PRODUCED

From producer Anita Belgiorno-Nettis

What would you do? How would you decide if you didn't know?

My parents knew.

My brother had talked to them.

We all have talked to them about it, because we believe in it.

Because we think it is an important decision.

Mattia's Last Race

Night felt.

We were painfully waiting, sitting still on our chairs along the wall of the long, impossibly long corridor of the Intensive Care Unit. The waiting room was now empty, just us: Mum, Manuela and I. We kept waiting, tormented and anguished. Suddenly from far away we heard steps, the steps of four running young people coming towards us ... and when they got closer to us we saw in them Bruno, Chiara, Valser and Rotti and all the others ... and with them Mattia's heart. They were running so fast that they went past us in a flash, so that the scream 'Come on Mattia', that so many times had encouraged him when he was running in Valsesia, got stuck in our throats, suffocated by our overwhelming emotion. But it was the tears that, falling on the ground, made the noise.

It was the noise of a big ovation, an outstanding ovation for Mattia, the solar Mattia, the generous and altruistic young man that in an imaginary relay, had arrived at the finishing line and was now passing on the baton of his young life to another young life.

Your dad

POEM FROM MATTIA'S FATHER

Because it could be the most important decision we ever make.

A decision that could save lives.

And when my 36-year-old brother Mattia suddenly died in a car accident, after the long wait at the hospital, after those agonizing hours while everyone was doing all they possibly could to try and save his life, after all that, my parents knew what to do.

Because my brother had spoken to them, he had told them his wishes.

And now, ten years later, besides the unforgettable memories of a most beautiful, generous human being, we are left with the knowledge that our Mattia, an accomplished runner, saved five lives. That our Mattia, solare like the sun, as my father so well wrote in his poem, has passed his baton on for others to carry.

So what would you do?



**1: DR MATSUI (MASA YAMAGUCHI) 2: DR TOM HOGAN (BRANDON BURKE)
3: MIKE**

CURRICULUM AND EDUCATION LINKS

Science and Biology

The National Science Curriculum, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) <<http://www.acara.edu.au>>. Download the National Curriculum Board *Shape of the National Curriculum: Science* PDF. Australian Science Teachers Association, ASTA <<http://www.asta.edu.au>>.

Health and Wellbeing

Go to the website of The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, ACHPER <<http://www.achper.org.au>> for details about national curriculum aims.

Values Education

The Federal Government National Values Education Program: http://www.valueseducation.edu.au/values/val_national_framework_for_values_education,8757.html
The 9 Values: <http://www.valueseducation.edu.au/values/default.asp?id=14515>
The two most relevant to this study guide are:

- Care and Compassion
- Integrity

Civics and Citizenship

Federal Government Civics and Citizenship: <http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/>
The National Standards for Civics and Citizenship: <http://www.esa.edu.au/projects/civics-and-citizenship>
The relevant content:

- The capacity to clarify and critically examine values and principles that underpin Australia's democracy and the ways in which these contribute to a fair and just society and a sustainable future.
- The knowledge, skills and values that support active citizenship and the capacity to act as informed and responsible citizens.

Victoria also has Interpersonal Development. See <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/interpersonal/>>.

Themes:

Giving to others
Family relationships
Death and dying
Respect
Doing your best

BEFORE VIEWING

Discuss with students how much they know about organ and tissue donation.

1. What experience have students had with organ and tissue donation? Have their family members recorded their donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register? Are they aware of the organs and tissues of the human body that can be transplanted? Are they aware of the statistics of transplants in Australia? View the Interactive Body at <<http://www.organtransplants.org/understanding/interactivebody/>> from The Gift of a Lifetime website and discuss the organs and tissues. Distribute the Did You Know? information sheet on page 10 and discuss.
2. View the Facts & Statistics page from DonateLife <<http://www.donatelife.gov.au>> or print it out.
3. Discuss why an organ may need replacement by transplant: genetic (inherited) diseases, infection, working environment (such as asbestos), lifestyle choices (such as alcohol abuse leading to liver disease, smoking causing lung disease, poor diet/lack of exercise contributing to heart disease).
4. Ask students to note any information that is new to them while they view the film.



- Australia (3000) and how many lung donations are available (six)?
8. Do you believe that other organs might be as difficult to find too? Why?
 9. Describe the scene where Dr Hogan explains to the Kershaw family and Mike's fiancée Anna that Mike is brain dead. What dramatic and cinematic devices are used here? For example, many close-ups of the family reacting to the bad news, and so on.
 10. How does he help Mike's family and Anna come to terms with Mike's condition?
 11. Why is it inappropriate for the hospital recipient coordinator to try to find out information about Mike from the hospital donor coordinator?
 12. Why do you think it is very difficult for Anna to accept that Mike is brain dead?
 13. What do you think is going through Dr Matsui's mind as he tries to decide whether Charlie or Alice should receive donated lungs if they become available?
 14. Both Charlie and Alice accept that they may

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Responding to *The Last Race*

1. How does the film establish the close family relationship between the Kershaws in the opening scene of the bike race? Why is this important for the later scenes when Mike is in hospital?
2. The next scene introduces Charlie and her father. In what ways does this scene reflect the same themes as the Kershaw family?
3. In the third scene as Mike races away from the pack, he says to his brother, 'It's okay, you can let me go.' What do you believe this means as a symbol to Tony when he recalls those last moments of Mike's later in the story?
4. In the scene where Mike crashes and falls, the cinematographer uses point-of-view (POV) shots to emphasise Mike's speed and fear as he comes off his bike. What other visual devices are used during the race to create the tension, and also to convey the enjoyment of the riders?
5. In scene four we are introduced to Alice, who needs a lung transplant urgently, and Dr Matsui. What kind of person is Dr Matsui and how does he respond to each of his patients? Give examples from scenes throughout the film.
6. As the medical staff are establishing that Mike's brain is damaged, what other storylines are playing out? How do they enhance the tension and drama of the story?
7. What do we discover about the availability of donor lungs in the scenes where the transplant coordinator is trying to source them? How many people on average die each week in



1: ANNA AND MIKE
2: DIRECTOR JEREMY CUMPSTON

- die soon. How does each of them show their thoughts, feelings and bravery?
15. Why did Charlie want her dad to do her nails? What does this reveal about Charlie?
 16. How does Leanne explain to Anna why she believes that Mike's organs should be donated?
 17. Anna is worried that Mike's organs may go to a 'junkie'. Is this likely? Does it matter who the recipient is for organ donations?
 18. Why does Tony think that the accident was his fault and how does Clive respond?
 19. What finally convinces Anna that Mike's organs should be donated?
 20. Is *The Last Race* an effective message film and drama? Why?
 21. Why do you think it is important for the family to always be asked to confirm the donation wishes of the deceased before donation for transplantation can proceed?



ACTIVITIES

1. Give out the True or False Quiz Race

In teams or pairs, get students to fill it out in a race to see who finishes first.

Students could be set research tasks first to find as many facts about organ donation that they can from viewing the film, as well as *The Story of Behind the Last Race* and the websites listed in this study guide.

2. The Greatest Gift

View *The Story of Behind the Last Race*.

Distribute the activity sheet and either view the interviews on the iPad app, on the DVD or from *The Last Race* website <<http://www.thelastrace.info>> Ask students to view in small groups on tablets or computers in the classroom, library or at home.

When students have completed their responses, allow forty-five minutes for feedback and discussion in the class.

3. Awareness-raising and action

Alone, in pairs or in small groups, students create their response to *The Last Race* and its themes by choosing one of the following activities. These activities require skills and knowledge drawn from a range of curriculum areas to enhance students' abilities to synthesise knowledge, to be critically analytical and to be creative. Allow at least 120 minutes for these activities and then an opportunity for students to present either to the class or to other students.

1. Design a poster to display in the school that draws attention to the need for family discussion about organ and tissue donation. It could



be produced using poster paper and coloured pens or designed on a computer and printed out on A3 paper.

2. You are a journalist writing an article about Mike's gift. Include quotes from the doctors, Mike's family and Anna in your story and publish it using a computer. For ideas on how to write the article, go to <<http://www.media college.com/journalism/news/write-stories.html>>.
3. Create a PowerPoint of facts and myths about organ donation.
4. Improvise a scene where Dr Matsui discovers that both Charlie and Alice are suitable recipients for a lung transplant. Include other characters in the scene such as Dr Hogan and the hospital recipient coordinator.
5. Create a short comic strip or graphic story based on the film.
6. Design a storyboard for a trailer for the film to

1: CHARLIE BARTLETT (HOLLY FRASER) 2: DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FRANK FICK



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1: SAM BARTLETT (TONY POLI) AND DAUGHTER CHARLIE 2: TONY 3: PRODUCERS ANITA BELGIORNO-NETTIS AND TRISTRAM MIALL



3

- be shown on TV to advertise it. How will you highlight the story and the issues? Which shots will you choose and will you have a voiceover or dialogue from the film to provide a synopsis?
- Tell the story from the point of view of one of the characters, such as Anna. This could take the form of texts to someone, emails, a diary, a poem or another form of personal expression. Look at what the film's producer Anita Belgiorno-Nettis has said of her own experience with organ donation, after her brother's death, and at her father's poem about it (see page 4), to get an idea of how it might feel.
 - Create a mockup of a video game about organ donation.
 - Write a song or a poem about the story of *The Last Race*.
 - Film a short DVD interviewing students about their knowledge and views about organ donation using the facts on the Did You Know? information sheet (see page 10). View this with the class or other classes.



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4. Myth-busting activity

This activity involves the students synthesising all of the information from *The Last Race* and *Behind the Story of the Last Race*. It allows for some creative and entertaining responses to the believability of myths and why they arose.

- Make a tally on the board of what the class considered to be the most unbelievable myths and rate highest to lowest. This allows students to create criteria and to critically analyse how these myths may have arisen and what, if any, facts are behind them.
- All of the major organ and tissue donation websites list facts, statistics and myths.

Young people rarely have the opportunity to contribute to websites such as these in their own words and using their own experiences. Using the myth-busting activity:

- An individual, pair or group of students could create a similar activity for students in other schools and send it to the Organ and Tissue Authority via mail or email.
- After doing a web search for 'organ donation', students write on any blog for media outlets responding to the article, video clip or podcast with the facts about donation, highlighting the importance of family discussion.
- Creating a wiki is a good way for students to share information with peers. Wikispaces provide information and clear instructions for students and schools. See <<http://www.wikispaces.com>>.
- Word clouds can be shared on the internet too. See Wordle <<http://www.wordle.net>>.

Start a Twitter or Facebook conversation based on facts and myths about organ donation, or students can contribute to some already existing such as DonateLife at <<http://www.facebook.com/DonateLifeAustralia>>.

FURTHER TEACHING RESOURCES

Give and Let Live

<http://www.giveandletlive.co.uk/en/teacherszone/index.html>

A UK site with video clips and activities for students as well as information about donation.

The Mysterious Human Heart

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/heart/tour/index.html>

Three episodes from the American PBS TV series that powerfully informs and illustrates the workings of the heart. It has real patient stories and how a recipient was decided upon for a donated heart.

Access free PowerPoint presentations about the human body at

<http://science.pppst.com/humanbody.html>

The Gift of a Lifetime

<http://www.organtransplants.org/resources/>

Students and teachers can experience the dramatic stories of transplant patients and donors as they are told in the Transplant Journey and Faces of Donation. Download suggested activities and worksheets and explore the Interactive Body to learn about the organs and tissues that can be transplanted.

Access free video about brain death and organ donation at

<http://riaus.org.au/programs-and-events/when-are-you-dead-brain-death-and-organ-donation/>

WEBSITES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

DonateLife

<http://www.donatelife.gov.au>

DonateLife is the website of the Organ and Tissue Authority, which was established on 1 January 2009. The Authority was established under the *Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Act 2008* as part of the Australian Government's national reform agenda, which aims to:

- increase capability and capacity within the health system, and
- to build community awareness and stakeholder engagement across Australia to promote organ and tissue donation.

The site has information about organ and tissue donation, discusses common myths and explains why it is so important to discuss donation with your loved ones. It also has Stories of Hope <<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/discover/stories-of-hope>> from those touched by organ and tissue donation that students will find inspiring and interesting to read.

Australian Organ Donor Register

<http://www.donorregister.gov.au>

The Australian Organ Donor Register is the official national register for organ and tissue donation. The register keeps a record of whether a person wishes to be a donor and of the organs and tissues they agree to donate. Authorised medical personnel can access the register twenty-four hours a day from anywhere in Australia.

Persons sixteen years of age or older can record their donation decision on the Register.

There are a range of community organisations that play a very important role within the organ and tissue donation and transplantation sector. They represent and support donor families, transplant recipients and even families awaiting transplantation. Examples of key groups include the following:

David Hookes Foundation

<http://www.davidhookesfoundation.com>

The objectives of the David Hookes Foundation are to increase the number of organ donors, to increase the public awareness of the need for organ donors, and to educate families to support the decision of their loved one to donate organs.

Gift of Life

<http://www.giftoflife.asn.au>

Gift of Life is the peak body for organ donor awareness in the Australian Capital Territory and the surrounding districts.

Kidney Health Australia

<http://www.kidney.org.au>

Kidney Health Australia is a not-for-profit organisation whose focus is to improve kidney health outcomes, which leads to substantial improvements to the quality of life for people with kidney and urinary tract diseases, and their families and carers. It also develops initiatives that reduce the incidence of kidney disease in the Australian community.

Organ Donation & Transplant Foundation of WA

<http://www.odatwa.org.au>

Organ Donation & Transplant Foundation of WA is a registered West Australian charity that seeks to foster, promote and develop all aspects of organ and tissue donation and establish sustainable mechanisms to increase community awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation in the West Australian Community.

Transplant Australia

<http://www.transplant.org.au>

Transplant Australia works in the areas of advocacy, awareness and support. Its objectives are to increase the rate of organ and tissue donation, improve the community's understanding of transplantation, and provide its members with support, education and guidance to improve their health and quality of life.

Sharelife

<http://sharelife.org.au>

Sharelife is a community group committed to the successful implementation of a National Reform Package that will ensure Australians have the same access to organ transplantation as the citizens of the world's leading countries.

Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation

<http://www.zaidee.org>

Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation aims to make organ and tissue donation and awareness more prevalent in our community. In particular, by informing parents of the importance of discussing these issues with their children in case they are ever placed in a situation where they have to make a decision.

Did You Know?

... about organ and tissue donation

Organ and tissue donation – A person can choose to save or improve other people’s lives medically by becoming an organ and tissue donor and giving part of himself or herself to someone he or she may never know.

Share this info sheet with your parents and friends

- In Australia you can donate your organs (heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and pancreas) and tissues (heart valves and pericardium, corneal and eye tissue, bone and related musculoskeletal tissue and skin).
 - Organ transplantation does not disfigure the body. You can have an open-casket funeral.
 - Around 1600 people are on Australian organ transplant waiting lists.
 - On average, people on the transplant list can wait between six months and four years.
 - Australia is a world leader for successful transplant outcomes.
 - In Australia, the family will always be asked to confirm the donation wishes of the deceased before donation for transplantation can proceed.
 - The most important thing that helps a family’s decision is their knowing the wishes of their loved one.
 - 43 per cent of Australians do not know or are not sure of the donation wishes of their loved ones.
 - The majority of Australians (93 per cent) that are aware of their family members’ wishes agree and support these wishes.
 - The majority of Australians (82 per cent) recognise it is important to discuss their donation wishes with the people close to them.
 - Nearly two in three Australians (60 per cent) have had a discussion with their loved ones about their donation wishes in the past twelve months, with 81 per cent indicating that the discussion was memorable.
- The quality of care for a potential donor at the end of his or her life, and the wishes of their family, is always the foremost consideration of those involved, and is never compromised by the potential for organ and tissue donation.
 - Most religions support organ and tissue donation as generous acts that benefit people.
 - There is an economical benefit in performing a kidney transplant versus having a patient in dialysis.
 - The statistics about people waiting for a transplant are only the tip of a much bigger number of people on dialysis that would have the opportunity of a much better life if they could receive a kidney transplant.

What you can do to improve Australia’s organ donation statistics and save lives.

1. Discuss the facts with your family and friends. Even young children will understand the concept of donation and its ability to help others. It is important that parents and children know each other’s views and decisions on organ and tissue donation.
2. Make an informed decision about whether to become an organ donor and, if you decide you will, register on the organ donation register.
3. Discuss as a family each other’s wishes and make a commitment to uphold each other’s wishes.

It’s not uncommon for individual family members to have different wishes. That’s okay. The important thing is that the discussion takes place and that individual wishes are known.

For more information on organ and tissue donation, visit <http://www.donatelife.gov.au>.

True Or False Quiz Race

Name(s) _____

Please answer the following questions with T for True or F for False in the space provided.

1 Discussing organ and tissue donation with your family is very important in order to make sure that your organ donation wishes are honoured.

2 One organ and tissue donor can save the lives of as many as twenty-five people.

3 Most donated organs are kept in an 'organ bank' to be used later.

4 Around 1600 people are officially waiting for an organ transplant at any time in Australia.

5 You can become an organ donor at any age.

6 You can become a donor even if you are eighty or more years old.

8 Being a donor is free.

9 Most major religions support organ and tissue donation.

10 Every patient who is waiting for an organ or tissue transplant receives one.

11 Organs and tissues can be donated and transplanted among and between ethnic groups.

12 Organ transplant recipients are selected on the basis of urgency of need and compatibility of body size and blood chemistry.

13. People who suffer from corneal blindness may have their sight restored with a cornea transplant.

14. Most transplanted organs and tissues are rejected by the body.

15 Transplant recipient selection has nothing to do with race, gender (male or female) or creed (the ideas on which people base their lives).

16 In Australia, the family's consent to organ and tissue donation proceeding is always sought.

17 On average, people on the transplant list can wait between six months and four years.

ACTIVITY: The Greatest Gift

This activity asks you to reflect on 'The Last Race' and 'The Story of Behind the Last Race' and to present a short topic for discussion to the class.

The topic you choose could be your personal beliefs about organ donation or a fact about organ donation you want more information about, which other students may be able to provide.

You can also write a brief response to one or more of the interviews, such as Anita Belgiorno-Nettis' experience with her brother, the doctor's views on organ transplant or, if you know of someone who has been a donor (even a live one, such as for kidneys or bone marrow) or a recipient, how their story relates to Belgiorno-Nettis'.

After viewing the interviews with Anita Belgiorno-Nettis, producer Tristram Miall, writer Peter Schreck, director Dr Jeremy Cumpston and cinematographer Frank Flick, discuss these points with a partner and take brief notes. Highlight any issue you would like the class as a whole to discuss.

1. In what ways is Anita Belgiorno-Nettis' brother Mattia's story reflected in *The Last Race*?
2. How does personal experience of a life-changing event shape a film or other fictional story?
3. What is powerful about portraying an event through film rather than other texts such as books?
4. How did the producers keep a balance between the film as drama and message?
5. How did the writer decide to portray how people speak about death? He defines connectedness as a way to do this. What does he mean by connectedness and how is it shown in the film?
6. How did the director's medical knowledge add to the film's believability and the actors' performances?

Responding to the interview with Dr Jeremy Chapman

7. Why did Professor Chapman decide to specialise in organ donation?
8. What do countries with high organ donation rates do to ensure that they never miss a potential donor?
9. Why is Australia lagging behind other countries? What needs to happen to identify potential donors?
10. How do you consent to be a donor?
11. Do you believe in an 'opt out' system?
12. Who makes the decision about when brain death has occurred?
13. What more can I find out about organ donation?
14. What myths are there about organ donation?



RIGHT: TRANSPLANT CO-ORDINATOR
MARITA KIEMSKI (ALYSON STANDEN)

ACTIVITY: Myth-busting

Name(s) _____

Find the facts to break the myths! Some of these myths arise from fear and ignorance of the medical facts. Some are just plain silly. Give a believability score and see which in the class have the highest score.

1 = slightly believable to 10 = completely unbelievable.

Remember not all of these are silly, so choose carefully!

THE MYTH	THE FACTS AND WHY THIS MYTH MAY EXIST	Believability score
For example: You can wake up in a bath in Asia and find your kidney removed.	Only in the movies!	8
People only need organs because of poor lifestyle choices.		
Doctors may remove my organs while I am still alive.		
Organs 'remember' their original owner.		
The rich and famous get priority.		
I won't be able to have an open-casket funeral.		
Doctors won't work as hard to save my life if they know I am a donor.		
My family won't know if I have saved the lives of others.		
Refugees and poor people in some countries are pressured to donate organs and tissues.		
What if I recover from brain death and wake during organ removal?		
If I have organs removed I could turn into a zombie.		

EXTRA INFORMATION

6.1 Australia's 'opt-in' system

The legislative framework for organ and tissue donation in Australia is described in state and territory human tissue acts. The Australian system is based on an informed consent or 'opt-in' model whereby an individual provides express and informed agreement to donate organs and tissues upon their death.

In Australia, doctors always seek the consent of families before proceeding to donation. Doctors have an ethical obligation to ensure that donation will not cause ongoing and undue distress to family members and to confirm the deceased's donation wishes if known.

In 2005, the Australian Organ Donor Register became a register of consent, allowing those individuals willing to donate their organs and tissues to register their legal decision. As at 30 June 2011, over 5.8 million Australians have signed onto the Register as organ and/or tissue donors.

While the recording of an intention or consent to donate on the Register provides important information that can assist hospital staff and the donor's family understand and respect the donor's wishes, the donor's family is still always asked to consent to donation proceeding.

It is incorrect to say that countries with an 'opt-out' or presumed consent model such as Spain have a better donation rate because of the 'opt-out' system. The fact is even in countries such as Spain, donation is still discussed with the family and any wishes of the family for donation not to proceed are respected, just as they are in Australia.

6.2 What is organ and tissue donation?

- Organ and tissue donation involves removing organs and tissue from someone who has died (a donor) and transplanting them into someone who, in many cases, is very ill or dying (a recipient). The donation can save the life of or significantly improve quality of life for recipients.
- In Australia, most donations occur when a person is declared 'brain dead'. Brain death occurs when the brain is so badly damaged that it permanently stops functioning, usually because of bleeding in the brain, a stroke, an infection or a severe head injury.
- A series of tests carried out by two independent and appropriately qualified senior doctors establishes that brain death has occurred. These doctors are different from those who would conduct transplantation, should it occur.
- Brain death is completely different from coma. A patient in a coma is unconscious because their brain is injured in some way, but their brain can continue to function and may heal. Medical tests can clearly distinguish between brain death and coma.
- Another method of organ donation is called Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD).
- Potential DCD donors are patients in the Intensive Care Unit

(ICU) who are so sick that they have no chance of survival without ongoing artificial ventilation or life support, and it is expected that they will not survive for longer than ninety minutes when life support is withdrawn. Care and respect is always maintained during the end-of-life process. A far greater number of people have the opportunity to donate tissue for transplantation. Tissue donation does not require the donor's death to have occurred in the same limited circumstances as organ donation for transplantation to be successful.

6.3 The difference between brain death and cardiac death

In a patient who has lost all brain function, the blood is still circulating to organs other than the brain. In this situation there is usually sufficient time to organise organ donation. This allows the family to spend more time with the patient who has died before the organ donation operation takes place.

In donation after cardiac death, however, it is important to start the operation as soon as possible after death has been determined. This is because the heart is no longer pumping blood to the organs, and if this time is too long, the organs may not work properly after they are transplanted.

The National Protocol for Donation after Cardiac Death is available on the DonateLife website together with a Plain Language Statement and Questions and Answers. For more information, visit <<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/the-authority/national-protocol-for-donation-after-cardiac-death>>.

6.4 The donation process

While each situation may vary slightly, the following donation process generally takes place:

- When a person dies in a situation where they can be a donor, their family is asked to give their consent for donation and then asked to complete the necessary paperwork to confirm the donation.
- A DonateLife donor coordinator is assigned to the family immediately. This person will be their key liaison point throughout the donation process.
- The donor's medical and social history is then established by the donor coordinator in conjunction with the family and donor's medical records. The donor's GP might be contacted for further information.
- Medical tests are undertaken to ensure the organs are suitable and match the organ(s) to (a) potential recipient(s).
- Following the tests, the DonateLife donor coordinator consults with organ transplant teams across Australia to match the donor with compatible recipients.
- Once a match is confirmed the potential organ recipient will be contacted by their transplant unit and admitted to hospital to wait for the gift of a transplant.
- The transplant surgical teams travel to the donor's hospital to retrieve the organs, while tissue bank staff generally retrieve tissue.
- The teams performing retrieval surgery are completely different from the medical team that tried to save the life of the deceased donor in the Intensive Care Unit, in order to

avoid any possible conflict of interest.

- They treat the donor's body with the utmost dignity and respect, closing the single incision as in a normal operation and using prostheses if bone or eyes have been removed to ensure that the body looks unchanged when the donor's family see the body for a final goodbye.
- In every case, the donor's family can make normal funeral arrangements, including an open casket if desired.
- Once the organs have been retrieved, they are immediately

transported to hospitals where the recipients are waiting. Police escorts are often used due to the need for urgent delivery and transplantation. Recipients receive organs and tissue on a strictly managed clinical allocation process. Only those who are the sickest and who will benefit from transplant will receive an organ or tissue transplant.

- Donated tissues are processed and stored for transplantation at eye and tissue banks. Corneas need to be transplanted within a week.

CAST	
Clive Kershaw	Mark Lee
Tony Kershaw	Daniel Garrett
Mike Kershaw	Johnny Emery
Leanne Kershaw	Sarah Woods
Anna Kincade	Geraldine Hakewill
Charlie Bartlett	Holly Fraser
Sam Bartlett	Tony Poli
Dr Robert Matsui	Masa Yamaguchi
Alice Mitchell	Kim Lewis
Marita Kiemski	Alyson Standen
Dr Tom Hogan	Brandon Burke
Amanda Wilson	Suzannah McDonald

CREW	
DIRECTOR	Jeremy Cumpston
PRODUCERS	Anita Belgiorno-Nettis & Tristram Miall
WRITER	Peter Schreck
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Frank Flick
EDITOR	Nick Meyers
COMPOSER	Gary Sinclair
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Virginia Mesiti
COSTUME DESIGNER	Joanna Mae Park
CASTING	Ann Fay, Marianne Jade, Maura Fay
PRODUCTION DETAILS	
Presented by Alagna Films, in association with Tristram Miall Films.	
Inspired by Ovidio Raiteri's poem 'Mattia's Last Run'	

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